

## EXCURSIONISTS MEET DEATH.

### NEGRO EXCURSION TRAIN COMPLETELY WRECKED.

### Two White Men and Many Negroes Killed, and Badly Wounded.

Disastrous beyond description and more horrible than the dreams of the raving maniac who imagines that hell in all its fury has broke loose and that countless imps with flaming eyes and with fire streaming from their nostrils are chasing him from post to pillar, was the wreck of the excursion train on the Southern railway near Berry, Ala., last Monday. The train left Greenville at an early hour Monday morning, having on board a large party of negroes bound for Birmingham. At every station along the line the crowd was augmented by fresh recruits, and when the train reached this city about 7:30 o'clock the ten coaches of which it consisted were pretty well filled, and after the Columbus contingent got aboard they were taxed to their utmost capacity.

The train was in charge of Conductor A. M. Vebber and Engineer J. W. Crook. Trainmaster H. M. Dudley was also on board. On account of having to wait at various stations for the large crowds to get aboard, a great deal of time was lost, and when the train reached Columbus it was behind schedule time. The excursionists were all anxious to get to Birmingham on time, and the train was, so it is said, being run at an exceedingly high rate of speed. All went well until the train approached the curve about a mile east of Berry, Ala., where the track runs along an embankment some sixty feet in height. When the train reached this point it was going at a high rate of speed, and suddenly and almost without warning, the first six coaches left the track, falling pell mell down the embankment and scattering death and destruction in their wake.

The scene which followed beggars description. There were dead negroes, dying negroes and crippled negroes everywhere. It was a negro excursion, and those who were killed or injured were negroes; the only white people suffering from the casualty being Trainmaster Dudley, who was killed outright, Engineer Crook, who received injuries from which he soon died, and Mrs. Clara Cox, of this city, who was slightly bruised about back and shoulders.

Those who were either killed or injured in the wreck were as follows:

#### THE DEAD.

Whites:  
H. M. Dudley, trainmaster, Southern railway, Birmingham, Ala.  
J. W. Crook, engineer, Birmingham.  
Negroes:  
Jim Smith, Isola.  
Lillie Martin (child), Columbus, Miss.  
Charley Carp, Columbus, Miss.  
Ezed Patterson, West Point, Miss.  
Ed Clark, Columbus, Miss.  
Nate Green, Columbus, Miss.  
Willie Thompson, Columbus, Miss.  
Emmett Leroy, Columbus, Miss.  
Marshall Wright, Columbus, Miss.  
Ben Kirk, Columbus, Miss.  
Jesse Gordon, Columbus, Miss.  
Milton Jones, Columbus, Miss.  
Roscoe Shirley, Columbus, Miss.  
Fuge Williams, Columbus, Miss.  
Jim Byrd, Columbus, Miss.

#### INJURED.

Negroes:  
John McRevy, fireman, Cleburn, Miss.  
Geo. Johnson, Columbus, Miss.  
Simon Guyton, Columbus, Miss.  
W. A. Taylor, Columbus, Miss.  
John Thompson, Columbus, Miss.  
Ben Long, Columbus, Miss.  
Joe Alexander, Tuscaloosa, Ala.  
George Barnett, Greenville, Miss.  
P. W. Julian, Fayette, Ala.  
Alfred Matthews, Columbus, Miss.  
Robert Phillips, Columbus, Miss.  
Lee Wilson, Waverly, Miss.  
Edmond Young, Columbus, Miss.  
Jini Black, West Point, Miss.  
George O'Neil, Greenwood, Miss.  
Mollie King, Mooney, Miss.  
Lula Shaw, Greenwood, Miss.  
Estella Brown, Greenwood, Miss.

Lee Williams, West Point, Miss.  
Lena McNeil, Columbus, Miss.  
Salbury Mason, Pheba, Miss.  
John Ross, Columbus, Miss.  
Walter Mason, Hudson, Miss.  
Alfred Richardson, Hudson, Miss.  
Willie Brown, West Point, Miss.  
Allen Snow, Eupora, Miss.  
I. C. Chandler, Columbus, Miss.  
Kid Clark, Columbus, Miss.  
Tony Bush, Columbus, Miss.  
William Franklin, Columbus, Miss.  
Sid Nevil, Columbus, Miss.  
Hanna Paine, Columbus, Miss.  
Clara Green, Columbus, Miss.  
George Lindsey, Columbus, Miss.  
George Cunningham, Columbus, Miss.  
Louisa Hendricks, Columbus, Miss.  
William Hood, Columbus, Miss.  
Jim Miller, Columbus, Miss.  
Tony Hooper, Columbus, Miss.  
Luther Hudson, Columbus, Miss.  
Emma Veils, Waverly, Miss.  
Anna Martin, Columbus, Miss.  
Walter Ward, Indianola, Miss.  
Will Brown, Winona, Miss.  
Tom Dickson, Columbus, Miss.  
Willie Williams, Columbus, Miss.  
Riley May Harmon, Columbus, Miss.  
George Greer, Columbus, Miss.  
Laura Carpenter, Columbus, Miss.  
Willie Kinnon, Columbus, Miss.  
Juanita Clay, Columbus, Miss.  
Mrs. Mollie Wilson, Columbus, Miss.  
Sue Whitfield, Columbus, Miss.  
Chester Elliott, Columbus, Miss.  
Sam Barry, Columbus, Miss.  
William Beard, Columbus, Miss.  
A. H. Wilson, Columbus, Miss.  
William Jackson, Columbus, Miss.  
Frank Evans, Greenwood, Miss.  
Ben Harris, Carrollton, Miss.  
Emma Puc, Carrollton, Miss.  
Bessie Ellis, Columbus, Miss.  
Early Gregory, Columbus, Miss.  
A. W. Fisher, Columbus, Miss.  
William Cunningham, Columbus, Miss.  
Edmond Bell, Columbus, Miss.  
Harrison Harris, Columbus, Miss.  
George Brown, Winona, Miss.  
Gus Richardson, Columbus, Miss.  
San Fleming, Fayette, Miss.  
Winnie Gordon, Columbus, Miss.  
Lillie Morgan, Columbus, Miss.  
William Morgan, Columbus, Miss.  
One unknown woman.  
Mrs. Marie Cox, white, injured and back sprained.

Most of the negroes who were killed and injured were from this city, and nearly all of them were on the two front coaches when the wreck occurred. When the coaches fell many of the negroes fell beneath them and were held prisoners for hours, some of the negroes who were not instantly killed dying before aid could reach them.

When the news of the wreck reached this city it filled with terror the hearts of many people. Not only the humble negro in his unpretentious cabin was aroused and alarmed, but the merchant in his counting room and the lady of fashion just awakened from her morning nap were alike affected. For nearly an hour after the first news of the wreck had been received no news could be obtained, and mothers and fathers who had children on the ill fated train were made frantic by the fear that their loved ones were among those who had perished. A wrecking train left this city about ten o'clock, and many of those who had relatives on the ill fated excursion train went with it. A wrecking train also sent out from Birmingham, and under the direction of General Manager J. E. Dodson and Superintendent C. S. Hayden, of the Southern railway, the work of clearing away the wreck was begun. It was, however, a tedious task, and the sun had long since sunk behind the hills which surround the Alabama village before the wounds of the injured had been dressed and the bodies of the unfortunate ones who were destined never to see another sun sink below the horizon were recovered.

West bound passenger train No. 35, due to pass Columbus at 5:30 p. m., reached Berry long before the wreck was cleared away, and it was not until a few minutes after nine o'clock that the train reached here, having on board the bodies of twelve Columbus negroes who had been killed outright, and a score of others who were injured in the wreck.

Many hours before the train arrived negroes began to congregate at the Southern depot at the foot of Main street, and the place looked more like a circus ground than a railway station. Notwithstanding the fact that twelve coffins lay gaping on the station platform ready to receive the bodies of twelve negroes who only a few hours previous had been happy, light hearted and

gay the members of the Ethiopian race who were present did not seem to realize the solemnity of the occasion; but laughed and chatted as gaily as though they were at a picnic. When the train finally rolled into the station, however, the gruesome sight which the dozen corpses and the many wounded negroes presented seemed to cause them to remember the fearful accident that had occurred, and they suddenly ceased laughing and began moaning and crying, it being the custom of the negro to give vent to his feelings, whatever they may be.

Ever since the first news of the wreck was flashed across the wires, the awful disaster has been the one topic of conversation in Columbus, and those who went to Berry on the relief train have been besieged with questions concerning it. Among those who went up were Dr. J. E. Davis, who is the local surgeon of the Southern here, and Hon. B. A. Weaver and Mr. C. H. Ayers, who went up to do what they could to alleviate the sufferings of the wounded. They all performed valiant work, and their efforts were most highly appreciated, both by the officials of the road and those who were the unfortunate victims of the accident.

Several prominent officials of the Southern were in the city Tuesday and yesterday, among them being General Manager J. E. Dodson, and Claim Agents Wylie and Fulham. The two latter gentlemen, together with Cash Mosby, the negro who ran the excursion, visited, so it is said, many of those who were injured in the wreck, and effected settlements with them.

Many rumors were afloat Tuesday night and yesterday concerning the discovery of additional victims, and one report was to the effect that the bodies of two white men had been recovered, but these reports could not be verified, and are doubtless without foundation in fact.

### THE CITY COUNCIL.

The city council held four sessions last week, on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday nights, most of the time at each meeting being consumed in the equalization of the tax rolls, which task has not yet been completed, and will be continued throughout next week.

The council had intended to open bids for the erection of the new negro school house at the meeting which was held on Friday night, but owing to the fact that several contractors who were anxious to bid had been unable to secure the plans and specifications in time to make the required estimates, action in the matter was postponed until Monday night. As has been previously stated in the Commercial, the council recently decided to erect this building on a lot in the northwestern part of the city which they purchased for that purpose from Mrs. M. E. Kemp, but some of the property holders in the neighborhood object to this location, and will go before the council Tuesday night and present their reasons for asking that the school be located elsewhere.

The contract for the construction of the new building which is to be erected as an annex to Franklin academy was awarded to Mr. J. W. Stansel. He is to receive \$4,300.00 for the work, and the building is to be completed within ninety days. The council will meet again tomorrow night, and will probably be in session every night this week.

#### Mother Always Kooks It Handy.

"My mother suffered a long time from distressing pains and general ill health, due primarily to indigestion," says L. W. Spalding, Verona, Mo. "Two years ago I got her to try Kodol. She grew better at once and now, at the age of seventy-six, eats anything she wants, remarking that she fears no bad effects as she has her bottle of Kodol handy." Don't waste time doctoring symptoms. Go after the cause. If your stomach is sound your health will be good. Kodol rests the stomach and strengthens the body by digesting your food. It is nature's own tonic.—E. C. Chapman.

## CITY HALL GETS POSTOFFICE.

### UNCLE SAM TO BECOME TENANT OF THE CITY FATHERS.

### Elegant Quarters Will Be Provided in New Building.

The location of the postoffice, a matter which has excited much interest in the public mind, and which has been freely discussed ever since it became known that the present quarters in the Gilmer hotel building were to be vacated in favor of a larger and more centrally located building, was finally settled last Thursday, when Postmaster Wood received a telegram from Hon. J. J. Howley, acting first assistant postmaster general, saying that the proposition of the city council had been accepted, and that the postoffice would, accordingly, be located in the new city hall, which is to be erected at an early date.

As is well known to all citizens of Columbus, the city hall is centrally located, and the new building which is soon to take the place of the old one will be a handsome and imposing structure, which will form an ideal place of domicile for Postmaster Wood and his assistants, and will at the same time be convenient for the business men of the city and the general public on account of its close proximity to the express office, banks and other institutions which one is required to visit in the ordinary transaction of business.

The council will, at an early date, take steps to commence the erection of the new building, and work will be pushed rapidly forward until it is completed, the original plans of the structure being altered so as to provide elegant quarters for the postoffice.

other house that has ever been in Columbus.

We shall keep in our stock everything worn by men, boys and children from a working man's outfit to the swellest things for full dress. And we shall pin our faith to that undoubted fact that values speak for themselves.

Yours for business  
COLUMBUS CLOTHING CO.  
TOPP & EZELL Managers.

#### Acts Immediately.

Colds are sometimes more troublesome in summer than in winter. It's hard to keep from adding to them while cooling off after exercise. One Minute Cough Cure cures at once. Sure cure for coughs, colds, croup, throat and lung troubles.—E. C. Chapman.

### ROUND BALE SYSTEM.

Capt D. P. Davis, the clever manager of the Columbus mill of the Mississippi Cotton Oil Co., informs the Commercial that the new ginney which the company is having erected on the lot recently purchased from Mr. C. W. Shedd will be equipped with the latest improved machinery for packing both round and square bales, and that the cotton will be packed in either shape that the customer may desire.

Mr. J. J. Stone, of Memphis, representing the company which owns the patent on the round bale system, was in the city last week, and made arrangements to install in the new plant all the machinery necessary, and the plant, work on which is now in progress will start out fully equipped to turn out both round and square bales.

#### Vacation Days.

Vacation time is here and the children are fairly living out of doors. There could be no healthier place for them. You need only to guard against the accidents incidental to most open air sports. No remedy equals DeWitt's Witch Hazel Salve for quickly stopping pain or removing danger of serious consequences. For cuts, scalds and wounds. "I used DeWitt's Witch Hazel Salve for sores, cuts and bruises," says L. B. Johnson, Swift, Tex. "It is the best remedy on the market." Sure cure for piles and skin diseases. Beware of counterfeits.—E. C. Chapman.

## WILL IMPROVE FAIR GROUNDS.

### GRAND STAND TO BE EN- LARGED AND IM- PROVED.

### Prospects for the Fall Fair are Exceedingly En- couraging.

The directors of the Mississippi and West Alabama Fair association held a meeting at the office of Secretary J. W. Cooper last Thursday and decided to take steps to greatly improve the fair grounds preparatory to the annual fall fair, which is to be held October 14th to 17th, inclusive. The grandstand will be enlarged and altered so as to allow exhibits underneath, and a separate building for exhibits in the ladies department will be erected. In addition to this a poultry shed and two refreshment booths will be erected. One of these booths has already been spoken for by the ladies of St. Paul's Episcopal church, and the second will be rented to other parties.

The directors decided to issue permits for two lemonade and peanut stands and also took steps to thoroughly advertise the fair, both through the press and by the usual method of billing these exhibitions. Advertisements will be placed in the leading papers of all the surrounding towns and posters will be liberally used along the lines of both the Southern and Mobile and Ohio railroads.

All indications point to a large number of entries in all the departments, and the races, which will be run each afternoon during the fair, promise to be close and exciting, as some of the leading stables of the county will be represented. Taking all in all the prospects for the fall fair are exceedingly bright.

#### CURES LOOD POISON AND CANCER.

Eating sores, swellings, falling hair, mucous patches, ulcers, scrofula, aching bones and joints, itching skin, boils, pimples, etc., by taking Botanic Blood Balm (B. B. B.) made especially to cure malignant blood and skin troubles. B. B. B. heals every sore and makes the blood pure and rich. Over 3000 cures of worst and most obstinate cases by taking B. B. B. Druggists, \$1. Describe trouble and trial bottle sent free by writing to Blood Balm Co., Atlanta, Ga.

### CITY COUNCIL CULLINGS.

The regular monthly meeting of the city council occurred last Tuesday night, but very few matters of public interest were disposed of, almost the entire time of the meeting being consumed in transaction of routine business.

The city treasurer was ordered to draw a check in the sum of six hundred dollars, payable to Mrs. M. E. Kemp, same being the full amount of the purchase price of square No. 115, north of Main street, which property the council recently decided to purchase as a site for the new negro school house which it is their purpose to erect. It now transpires, however, that the building may not be erected on this lot after all, as numerous property holders in the neighborhood object to having the negro school house in such close proximity to them. These property holders have agreed to take the lot recently purchased off the city's hands if the council will locate the school house elsewhere, and the building may be located on the old Munger tanyard property, a few blocks further east, although no definite action was taken, the matter being referred to a special committee, who will fully investigate the same, and report its recommendations to the council.

Mr. G. M. Robertson, representing the Andrews Chair Co., of Chicago, appeared before the council for the purpose of obtain-

ing the contract for furnishing the desks which will be required for Union academy and for the new rooms which are to be added to Franklin academy, but the council declined to purchase at the present time, and passed a resolution leaving the matter in the hands of the school committee.

The law prescribes that the work of equalizing the city tax rolls shall be begun at the regular September meeting of the board, and accordingly the matter was taken up, but little progress had been made when the hour of adjournment arrived. The council met again last night, and will probably be in session every night this week, besides the equalization of the tax rolls, several other important matters to consider.

For mosquito bites, bites or stings of insects, animals or reptiles apply BAL-LARD'S SNOW LINIMENT. It counteracts the poison in the wound, subdues the inflammation and heals the flesh. Price 25 and 50 cents. E. C. Chapman.

### COLUMBUS LYCEUM ASSOCIATION.

For six entertainments, musical, literary and humorous, you pay for a season ticket only \$2.00. Or a double ticket only \$3.50. Think of it! Tickets for sale at the drug stores. Many towns smaller than Columbus maintain such a course.

The entertainments will be given at the College chapel, and the citizens of Columbus are invited to co-operate in this laudable undertaking. Remember Dunbar Bell Ringers, Wednesday night, September 17.

For digestive weakness, nervousness, pain in the side, flatulency, diarrhoea, weakness, headache and other annoying accompaniments of indigestion, HERBINE is a prompt and unequalled remedy. Price, 50 cents. E. C. Chapman.

### THE DUNBAR BELL RINGERS.

On Wednesday night, Sept. 17, the first of the series of entertainments will be given in the College chapel under the auspices of the Columbus Lyceum Association.

The Dunbar Bell Ringers will appear, and in addition to the sweet music which their instruments will make, this company furnishes a vocal quartette whose songs have gained enthusiastic praises wherever they have appeared.

On account of the very low price, only \$3.50 for a double season ticket, and \$2.00 for a single season ticket, and the very high character of these entertainments, it is believed that the Columbus people will give liberal support to the movement.

The ministers of the city are anxious for their people to enjoy the pleasure of these entertainments, and they have all gone into the movement most heartily. Call at the drug stores and get a season ticket.

Constipation, impaired digestion and a torpid liver, are the most common ailments that are responsible for that tired, listless, fagged-out feeling that makes the summer a dreary period to so many people. It improves the digestion and arouses the liver to normal activity. Price, 50 cents. E. C. Chapman.

### THE UNION SERVICES CLOSED.

The union services which have been held each Sunday evening during the past two months under the auspices of the Pastors' Alliance, closed last Sunday evening, at which time Rev. A. J. Miller, pastor of the First Baptist church, delivered a splendid sermon before a large congregation.

In the absence of Mr. Teasdale, the regular organist, the organ was presided over by Miss Margie Lee Caine, who is beginning to be recognized as a musician of rare skill and unusual talent.

Extreme hot weather is a great tax upon the digestive power of babies; when puny and feeble they should be given a dose of WHITE'S CREAM VERMIFUGE. Price, 25 cents. E. C. Chap-



## ENVELOPES FOR LADIES' USE

Are made in various tints. We have quite a number.

10c      dime

CALLING CARDS,  
REGRET CARDS,  
TALLY CARDS,  
and PLAYING CARDS.

See our line when in need of stationery.

### CURRY, LIPSCOMB & CAINE.

### PAY LESS AND DRESS BETTER.

#### Fall Announcement of COLUMBUS CLOTHING CO.

We have met with the success and encouragement we feel we are justly entitled to, and for which we are heartily thankful, and we wish to assure our friends and patrons of Columbus and the surrounding country, that we are building up a first class clothing and furnishing store that has been a long felt want in our city; and we hope with persistent strivings, backed by our twenty years' experience in this business to make it a credit to ourselves and to our city. Our new method of conducting our business for cash on a 30 days basis, with our small expenses, with two clothing salesmen of age in that particular line as the sinews of the concern, will enable us to sell goods at much lower figures than any

### COMPANY ORGANIZED.

The stockholders of the People's Ice and Cold Storage Company met yesterday afternoon at the board of trade rooms and effected permanent organization by the election of the following directors: T. O. Burris, J. T. Wood, J. T. Searcy, jr., H. M. Waddell, G. Y. Banks.

At the conclusion of the stockholders' meeting the directors met and elected the following officers: T. O. Burris, president; Jno. T. Wood, vice-president; J. T. Searcy, jr., secretary and treasurer.

Mr. Lee Caine spent last Sunday in Hamilton, Miss.

Mr. J. M. Easton returned Sunday from St. Louis.

Mr. B. H. Atkinson is spending a few days at home with his family.